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Typed or Printed Name	Kimberly W Zuchike		
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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231	Attorney Docket Confirmation No.	MEWE-005 5221
	First Named Inventor	Jackson et al.
	Application Number	09/341,505
	Filing Date	July 12, 1999
	Group Art Unit	1653
	Examiner Name	S. Liu
	Title	ASSAYS, AGENTS, THERAPY AND DIAGNOSIS RELATING TO MODULATION OF CELLULAR DNA REPAIR ACTIVITY

Sir:

This response is responsive to the Office Action dated September 30, 2002. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Please make the following amendments.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (amended) A screening method for identifying a compound which inhibits the binding between XRCC4 (XR-1 Cell Complementing 4) and DNA ligase IV, or XRCC4 and DNA-PK_{CS}/Ku (DNA-dependent Protein Kinase catalytic subunit/Ku), or XRCC4, DNA ligase IV and DNA-PK_{CS}/Ku, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) contacting XRCC4 with a test compound and one or more components selected from the group consisting of DNA ligase IV and DNA-PK_{CS}/Ku; under conditions wherein, in the absence of said test compound being a compound which inhibits binding of XRCC4 to said one or more compounds, said XRCC4 binds to said one or more components; and

(ii) determining binding between said XRCC4 and said one or more components;

wherein reduction or abolition in binding between said XRCC4 and said one or more